

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03167 211710Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 PM-05 COME-00 HA-05  
TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 AF-10 CIAE-00 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 OPR-02 SCS-06 CA-01 ACDA-12 /129 W  
-----012981 212014Z /62

R 211641Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8540  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ  
DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL SAN SALVADOR 3167

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ASEC, SHUM, ES  
SUBJECT: SECURITY CONCERNS IN EL SALVADOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2716 AND 2698

1. TWO CITED REFTELS HAVE DESCRIBED WORSENING SECURITY  
SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR AND BURGEONING GROWTH OF SECURITY  
INDUSTRY WITH SUPPLY OF TRAINED GUARDS, WEAPONS AND PROTECTIVE  
SYSTEMS RUNNING CONSISTENTLY BEHIND DEMAND.

2. GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT INABILITY TO SOLVE OR OTHERWISE  
COPE WITH THREE MOST RECENT KIDNAPPINGS HAS REINFORCED  
BELIEF OF PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR AND WEALTHY ELITE  
THAT THEY MUST LOOK TO THEIR OWN SECURITY.  
APPREHENSIONS ARE WHETTED BY THREATENING LETTERS AND  
PHONE CALLS NOW REACHING THEM IN GROWING VOLUME.

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03167 211710Z

SITUATION IS REPORTEDLY COMPLICATED BY SALES PROMOTION  
TACTICS OF SOME LOCAL SECURITY-PURVEYING FIRMS WHO  
ALLEGEDLY MANUFACTURE OR INSINUATE THREATS AGAINST WHICH  
THEY THEN OFFER PROTECTION.

3. FOREIGN COMPANIES ARE BRINGING IN SECURITY CONSULTANTS,  
SOME FROM HOME OFFICES AND OTHERS ON CONTRACT BASIS. ONE

COMPANY PLANS TO CONTRACT SECURITY GUARDS FROM ARGENTINA AND CHILE ON GROUNDS THAT THESE ARE FAMILIAR WITH TERRORISM PROBLEM AND WILL BLEND INCONSPICUOUSLY INTO LOCAL SCENE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GERMAN EMBASSY WILL SOON RECEIVE ITS OWN SECURITY PERSONNEL DIRECT FROM BONN. COMPANIES KNOWN TO US HAVE IN SOME CASES TEMPORARILY ABSENTED FOREIGN EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL FROM EL SALVADOR AND IN OTHERS HAVE EXPEDITED ALREADY IMMINENT TRANSFERS IN FACE OF PERCEIVED THREATS.

4. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, OUR EMBASSY IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS REQUESTS FRO ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE MET ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY, HAVE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF STATE DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION 8884, "COUNTERING TERRORISM," ARE SHOWING TRAINING FILMS ON SECURITY TO INTERESTED AUDIENCES, AND HAVE ESTABLISHED OFFICE OF SECURITY AS POINT OF CONTACT WITH CONCERNED BUSINESSMEN.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PHYSICAL SECURITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 jun 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SANS03167  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 SAN SALVADOR 2716  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2264251  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SECURITY CONCERNS IN EL SALVADOR  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ASEC, SHUM, ES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014